

REMARKS

Status of the Claims.

Claims 1-12 are pending with entry of this amendment, claims 13-75 being cancelled and no claims being added herein. Claims 1 and 6-12 are amended herein. These amendments introduce no new matter and merely make grammatical corrections. Applicants believe the amendments made herein do not alter the scope of the claims.

Election/Restriction.

Pursuant to a restriction requirement made final, Applicants cancel claims 13-75 with entry of this amendment. Please note, however, that Applicants reserve the right to file subsequent applications claiming the canceled subject matter and the claim cancellations should not be construed as abandonment or agreement with the Examiner's position in the Office Action.

Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's thorough consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement (Form 1449) submitted on December 12, 2003.

Per the Examiner's request, a clean corrected copy of the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is submitted herewith correcting inventor names.

Objections to the Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of an error in paragraph 176 on page 62. This paragraph is amended herein thereby obviating this objection.

The Examiner also requested that the status of the parent application be updated. Paragraph 1 is amended herein thereby updating the status of the parent application.

Allowable subject matter.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner indicated that the pending claims appear to be free of the art of record. Accordingly Applicants have canceled the non-elected claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is

respectfully requested. Should the Examiner seek to maintain the rejections, Applicants request a telephone interview with the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor.

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (510) 769-3513.

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Respectfully submitted,



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